

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-14. (Cancelled).
15. (Currently amended) A method for producing an absorbent fiber product comprising:
- treating a parent fiber product with a fluid medium such that fibers of the parent fiber product are at least partially wetted, and
- rapidly evaporating the fluid medium by microwave irradiation between the fibers, so that evaporation pressure generated by the evaporating fluid medium has a kinematic effect on the fibers, which increases the distance between the fibers,
- wherein power density of the pulsed microwave radiation is between approximately 10^3 and approximately 10^6 W/mm².
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the parent fiber product is exposed to a fluid medium in a form selected from vapor and emulsion.
17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the parent fiber product is exposed to at least one of vapor deposition and vapor saturation by the fluid medium in the form of vapor.
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the parent fiber product is one of wetted and saturated by the fluid medium in the form of an emulsion.
19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the fibers are homogeneously wetted.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the fibers contact each other at contact points, and wherein the kinematic effect on the fibers compacts the fibers ~~on~~ at the contact points.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 ~~21~~, wherein the fibers are subjected to pulsed microwave radiation.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 ~~21~~, wherein the microwave radiation comprises wavelengths of between approximately 1000 nm and approximately 1000 μm .

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 ~~21~~, wherein the microwave radiation comprises wavelengths that are absorbed less by the fibers than by the fluid media.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 ~~21~~, wherein exposure time of the pulsed microwave radiation is between approximately 1 μs and approximately 1000 ms.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising adjusting a time period between the wetting of the fibers with the fluid medium and the rapid evaporation of the fluid medium so that diffusion of the fluid medium is directed towards at least one of in between and into the fibers.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising treating, subsequent to the rapid evaporation of the fluid medium, the parent fiber product with a fluid fixative.

29. (Previously presented) An absorbing fiber product produced by the method of claim 15.

30. (Previously presented) An absorbing fiber product according to claim 29, which is a hygiene fiber product selected from the group consisting of paper toweling, toilet paper, and tissues.

31. (Currently amended) A method for producing an absorbent fiber product, comprising contacting a parent fiber product with a fluid medium such that fibers of the parent fiber product are at least partially wetted, and irradiating the fibers, so that the fluid medium between the fibers is rapidly evaporated and an absorbent fiber product is produced that has greater absorbency than the parent fiber product, wherein power density of the irradiation is between approximately 10^3 and approximately 10^6 W/mm².

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the parent fiber product is exposed to a fluid medium in a form selected from vapor and emulsion.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the fibers are homogeneously wetted.

34. (Cancelled)